

SOCCKER WEEK

3rd DECEMBER 1974

3 HIGH STREET, PRAHRAN.

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FOLIO No.25

PRICE 20c (SYDNEY 30c)

FIRST WITH THE POOLS !

FOR MATCHES PLAYED
DEC. 14

SOCCER TIPS AND NEWS BY JOCK STEPHEN

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FOR MATCHES PLAYED
DEC. 21

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COVENTRY	NEWCASTLE	3
DERBY	EVERTON	4
IPSWICH	TOTTENHAM	5
LEEDS	STOKE	6
LIVERPOOL	LUTON	7
MIDDLESBRO'	BIRMINGHAM	8
Q.P.R.	SHEFF. UTD.	9
WEST HAM	MAN. CITY	10
WOLVES	BURNLEY	11
ASTON VILLA	YORK	12
BLACKPOOL	NORWICH	13
BRISTOL C.	NOTT'M FOR.	14
FULHAM	WEST BROM.	15
HULL	SOUTH'PTON	16
MAN. UTD.	ORIENT	17
NOTTS. C.	BRISTOL R.	18
OXFORD UTD.	CARDIFF	19
PORTSMOUTH	BOLTON	20
SHEFF. WED.	OLDHAM	21
SUNDERLAND	MILLWALL	22
BLACKBURN	DARLINGTON	23
BRIGHTON	BRENTFORD	24
CHESTERF'D	DONCASTER	25
GRIMSBY	BURY	26
HARTLEPOOL	PORT VALE or LINCOLN	27
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**DEAR READERS
THIS IS THE
LAST EDITION
FOR 1974**

**WE RESUME
PUBLICATION
ON JANUARY
22ND WITH
BIGGER
REPORTS FROM
ALL OVER
AUSTRALIA**

BIRMINGHAM	LIVERPOOL	1
BURNLEY	MIDDLESBRO'	2
CHELSEA	WEST HAM	3
EVERTON	CARLISLE	4
LUTON	DERBY	5
MAN. CITY	WOLVES	6
NEWCASTLE	LEEDS	7
STOKE	ARSENAL	8
TOTTENHAM	Q.P.R.	9
BOLTON	OXFORD UTD.	10
BRISTOL R.	PORTSMOUTH	11
CARDIFF	NOTTS C.	12
MILLWALL	SHEFF. WED.	13
NORWICH	BRISTOL C.	14
NOTT'M FOR.	BLACKPOOL	15
OLDHAM	SUNDERLAND	16
ORIENT	HULL	17
SOUTH'PTON	FULHAM	18
WEST BROM.	ASTON VILLA	19
YORK	MAN. UTD.	20
BRIGHTON	PLYMOUTH	21
GILLINGHAM	CHESTERF'D	22
GRIMSBY	CHARLTON	23
HALIFAX	BOURNEM'TH	24
HEREFORD U.	BLACKBURN	25
HUDDERSF'D	WALSALL	26
PRESTON	PORT VALE	27
SWINDON	PETERBORO'	28
TRANMERE	BURY	29
WREXHAM	WATFORD	30
BARNESLEY	NORTH'PTON	31
BRADFORD C.	SOUTHPORT	32
BRENTFORD	SCUNTHORPE	33
DARLINGTON	CREWE	34
DONCASTER	CAMB'GE UTD.	35
HARTEPOOL	ROCHDALE	36
MANSFIELD	ROTHERHAM	37
READING	SWANSEA	38
SHREWSBURY	EXETER	39
WORK'GTON	CHESTER	40
ABERDEEN	DUNF'MLINE	41
AIRDRIE	RANGERS	42
ARBROATH	HIBERNIAN	43
AYR UTD.	MORTON	44
CELTIC	ST. JOHNS'NE	45
DUMBARTON	MOTH'WELL	46
DUNDEE UTD.	KILMARNOCK	47
HEARTS	DUNDEE	48
PARTICK	CLYDE	49
ALLOA	FORFAR	50
COWDENB'TH	STENH'SEM'R	51
EAST FIFE	STRANRAER	52
FALKIRK	CLYDEBANK	53
HAMILTON	BRECHIN	54
MEADOWB'K	STIRLING A.	55

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SOCCER POOLS TIPS

by Jock Stephen

YOUR TRIPLE TROUBLE FREE TREBLE CHANCE.

Due to the approach of the festive season, I am giving you my form guides for the ensuing three weeks, so that you can keep them by your side or even do them before going on your holidays. This will aid you by not missing a week if possible.

This is an advantage where you have the convenience of a subscriber's agent to assist you with a supply of coupons.

Fixtures for the 14th December include sixteen 2nd Round F.A. Cup ties from 23 to 38. Some of them will have undecided games from the previous round which were not known at time of printing of coupons. First English and Second Scottish could be the ones to watch on that day, as you will agree that the top English League has the appearance of the most open competition in living memory. I will not give my NAP HAND this week, but will be content to leave it to the top League with seven of them looking good for draws. Only two Scottish Cup First Round ties on 54 and 55, and East Stirling could produce a replay and you would be well advised to note the Scottish League, for this section of the coupon has produced many draws in the last few weeks. I hope you do get a slice of the action over Xmas.

x x x

The 21st December will find us back with an ALL LEAGUE programme and draws seem much more difficult to detect, although English Second seems as good a field to explore as any. I would fancy my NAP HAND as a perm on the four draws, if only we had that segment in Aussiepools.

However we can hope for the future, can't we? My NAP HAND is, BURNLEY V MIDDLESBROUGH. TOTTENHAM V Q.P.R., BOLTON V OXFORD UNITED, MILLWALL V SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY and BRADFORD CITY V SOUTHPORT. To give yourself the best chance on the 21st concentrate your efforts from 9 to 19 and includes some of the rest up to 32. The remainder of coupon does not appeal very much to me. This one will no doubt provide a very Merry Xmas to most of you.

x x x

Lots of things happen in four weeks, and judging by the paucity of draws on the 30th November, the main objective will be to get the first six draws and then take it from there. Now this may seem easier said than done, so let's look at the 28th December coupon. I can see First English League taking over the 'Draws Specialist' title, mainly because of the tight situation there. NAP HAND for 28th is, BIRMINGHAM V IPSWICH, LUTON V WOLVES, TOTTENHAM V COVENTRY, BRISTOL

SOCCER POOLS



attend between the 1st and 3rd of April.

Topics will include violent behaviour, problems peculiar to the major clubs throughout the world, negative play and anti-sporting behaviour. Another feature will be discussion on threats to the stability of the sport.

The results of the experiments tried out at the Under-18 European Nations Tournament at Monte Carlo will be discussed before being adopted or discarded.

These consisted of no offside from free-kicks, and the use of the sin-bin for ten-minute periods for offences as in ice-hockey.

These were mentioned in 'Soccer Week' of 20th November. In a statement from F.I.F.A.

'The aim of this World congress will be to obtain an over-all idea of the problems concerning the future of football, and to propose concrete solutions.' Those attending will include the most eminent personalities from F.I.F.A. and U.E.F.A., other Continental confederations, clubs, referees, trainers, players and journalists. It must be admitted that these bodies should bring out the right solution for the future progress of football. An all-time example to ALL sports, no matter how SMALL on the World horizon.

LEICESTER MISS OUT

One could be excused for saying bad luck, Leicester. John Toshack, the Welsh International, will stay with Liverpool after all. He failed to pass a medical check-up when it was found that he had a muscle injury in the left thigh. It seems a pity, as under the rules of transfer the player receives one tenth of the fee. Perhaps his value on transfer of 160,000 Pounds will not be entirely lost by Liverpool.

SUBSCRIBERS AGENTS WANTED

To all those interested in taking an active part in the conduct of Soccer Pools in the State of Victoria. I would like to invite people (both sexes) of dependable character, who will act as Subscribers Agents, to contact me by mail to J. H. Stephen, Box 134, P. O. Kew, 3101, Victoria. As a Main Agent, I can put you on the way to becoming successful in this spare-time occupation, in your own locality.

You can develop the ability to contact people and make friends easily. YOU can be a successful agent with excellent financial rewards.

If you are employed in

industry, and have confidence in your own ability, then drop me a line to the above address. The Jackpot prize has created a need for more Subscribers Agents to handle the increased business, so let's hear from you.

x x x

I HAVE BEEN ASKED

Many people on hearing about the \$450,000 prize and then the \$100,000 jackpot offer, have been asking how and when these prizes will be paid. Now the Soccer Pools are different to an ordinary lottery, which has a fixed number of tickets sold, whereas the pools have no maximum or minimum number of entries.

All the Australian entries are in open competition with other entries from all over the world. The \$450,000 top prize will be paid to one single Australian entry which gains 24 points in the Vernons Pool.

This will be the same procedure with the \$100,000 prize. Even if there are several overseas winners with 24 points, and no matter what their dividends are under \$100,000 in Britain, should there be only one Australian with 24 points, he or she will receive the \$100,000.

Hoping this clarifies the procedure. I feel that the duty of ALL newspapers to inform their readers of facts concerning the pools, and I feel that the dailies are not giving this service.

This leaves it to 'Soccer Week' to explain in our modest way to our thousands of readers throughout Victoria, Tasmania and the eastern coast of New South Wales.

FROM HERE AND THERE

The Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia intend to visit Indonesia shortly, and each country will play a leading Jakarta club Paseja in that city, whilst a round of matches will take place in Padang, with one of Padang's leading clubs.

The multi-week coupons will be extremely popular over the holiday period, as they give you the chance to be in it every week without the problem of filling in every time.

Of course you are stuck with the same numbers each week. This might not be such a bad thing as you never really know how large your dividend can get to.

The way form has been lately your forty cents each week for say six weeks could well be profitable, and to all those folk who are used to that well-known weekly numbers game; what's the difference? Only about double the prize-money for less than half the cost.

LISTENING TO THE BRITISH EXPERTS

The new two column coupon gives the investor an opportunity to use some selections in both columns to give him a better chance of success. So says Harold Swan of the 'Sunday Express',

and goes on to give this tip. "Never take two entirely different sets of selections. Choose a number of really tricky games as the backbone of your entry and make sure they are covered in both columns."

Bob Baily of the Sunday Mirror is of the opinion that the any eight from 11 Perm or the System One as it is known in Aussiepools, is the best value for money you can get. Now he is of the opinion that a double System One is double value. Bob reckons that it's combination of form and fancies that scoop the big jackpots.

News of the World expert, Midas, is of the opinion. "My idea for the perfect entry is to have two bites at winning a fortune. "Have 15

selections on System Five and follow up with a System of lesser selections with about half of first matches included in your second System." In this way you will be using two Systems which have already proved capable of many Six Figure Dividends.

Manchester United took the attendance record last Saturday with a HOUSE FULL sign ten minutes before kick-off. The 61,000 spectators saw one of those sparkling displays which pleased everybody including the losers. Sunderland received the plaudits of the sporting crowd.

Sunderland led 2-1 at half-time. Ron Davies ex

FOR MATCHES PLAYED

DEC. 28

BIRMINGHAM	IPSWICH	1
BURNLEY	CARLISLE	2
CHELSEA	Q.P.R.	3
EVERTON	MIDDLESBRO.	4
LEICESTER	LEEDS	5
LUTON	WOLVES	6
MAN. CITY	DERBY	7
NEWCASTLE	LIVERPOOL	8
SHEFF. UTD.	ARSENAL	9
TOTTENHAM	COVENTRY	10
BOLTON	FULHAM	11
BRISTOL C.	BRISTOL C.	13
CRISTIFF.	ASTON VILLA	14
MILLWALL	PORSCHE	15
NORWICH	OXFORD UTD.	16
NOTT. FOR. NOTTS C.	17	
OLDHAM	MAN. UTD.	18
ORIENT	SUNDERLAND	19
SOUTHPORT	SHEFF. UTD.	20
WEST BROM.	BLACKPOOL	21
YORK C.R.	HULL	22
BRIGHTON	ALDERSHOT	23
COLCHESTER	PETERBORO	24
GILLINGHAM	CRYSTAL P.	25
GRIMSBY	WALSALL	26
HALIFAX	PLYMOUTH	27
HEREFORD U.	BURY	28
HUDDERSFIELD	BLACKBURN	29
PRESTON	CHESTERF'D	30
SOUTHEND	PORT VALE	31
SWINDON	BOURNEMTH	32
TRAMMELL	WATFORD	33
WREXHAM	CHARLTON	34
BARNESLEY	ROTHERHAM	35
TRADFORD C.	ROCHDALE	36
BRENTFORD	EXETER	37
DARLINGTON	CHESTER	38
DONCASTER	WOLVES	39
HARTLEPOOL	NORTH P'.	40
LINCOLN	SCUNTHORPE	41
MANSFIELD	NEWPORT	42
READING	STOCKPORT	43
SHREWSBURY	CARLISLE UTD.	44
WORKING	CREWE	45
CLYDE	DUMBARTON	46
DUNDEE	AIRDRIE	47
DUNFERMLINE	PARTICK	48
HIBERNIAN	ABERDEEN	49
KILMARNOCK	CELTIC	50
MORTON	ARBROATH	51
MOTHWELL	DUNDEE UTD.	52
RANGERS	AYR UTD.	53
ST. JOHN'S NE	HEARTS	54
ALBION R.	ALLOA	55

RESULTS FROM LAST WEEKS GAMES

Check pge. 3 for up-to-date form

Swindon Town 4, Colchester United 1.

English Division Four: Cambridge United 0, Rotherham United 0; Chester 3, Stockport County 1; Darlington 0, Bradford City 3; Reading 2, Doncaster Rovers 0; Rochdale 1, Exeter City 1; Scunthorpe United 1, Swansea City 2; Shrewsbury Town 3, Barnsley 1; Southport 1, Newport County 3; Workington 0, Brentford 1; Hartlepool v Lincoln City (postponed due to 14 Lincoln players having virus infection).

Scottish Division One: Clyde 2, Hearts 2; Dundee 1, Partick Thistle 0; Dunfermline Athletic 2, Airdrieonians 2; Hibernian 2, Ayr United 1; Kilmarnock 2, Arbroath 2; Morton 0, Celtic 1; Motherwell 2, Aberdeen 1; Rangers 4, Dundee United 2; St Johnstone 3, Dumbarton 0.

Scottish Division Two: Albion Rovers 2, St Mirren 4; Berwick Rangers 3, Alloa 0; Clydebank 2, Cowdenbeath 2; East Stirling 1, Stenhousemuir 0; Forfar Athletic 1, Meadowbank 3; Montrose 3, East Fife 1; Queens Park 0, Hamilton Academicals 3; Raith Rovers 5, Brechin City 2; Stirling Albion 3, Queen of the South 0; Stranraer 3, Falkirk 4.

Southampton scored the winner when he came on in the second half, so he has made a good impression. One hopes that George Graham ex Arsenal will settle in as quickly with Southampton.

ONSIDE WITH STEPHEN KALUS

PREPARATION FOR THE BIG GAME AGAINST THE POLISH TEAM LEGIA are well on the way and taking in consideration the Christmas Holidays break, Soccer House has already started to sell tickets which are available from Melbourne Sport Depot, club secretaries and Olympic Park. Meantime Tony Boggi has reduced the Victorian squad to 18 players and trainings are held at Middle Park every Wednesday night.

Polish journalist A. Ochocki who will accompany the Polish tourists informs me that Legia is trying to get a guest player, the famous right winger Gregory Lato to tour Australia with them. If they succeed, Soccer fans will see two best world wingers Gadocha (left) and Lato (right).

JIM MCKAY, THE GOLDEN BOY OF THE SOCCEROOS is almost certain to join Hellas. SAM PAPASAVAS, the club's president, hopes to clinch the deal with Sydney Hakoah this week and who do you think will make first use of Australia's No. 1 linkman? Tony Boggi keeps his fingers crossed and don't be surprised to see the Victorian squad increased this week to 19.

The new coach will be introduced to the players on Thursday night at the YMHA Club, 178 Collins Street. His main task will be a close co-operation with the reserve coach Sandy Henderson and the very successful coach of the under 16s, Bill Curran.

REMEMBER ALEX PURDIE, the prolific goalscorer of Hakoah Melbourne? He is in the news again being ap-

x x x

x x x

x x x

THE POLISH CLUBS IN CONT. PGE 3

Check your Pools Form
here with Soccer Week,
first with the Pools!

ENGLISH LEAGUE

	DIVISION ONE						
	P	W	D	L	F.	A.	Pts.
Stoke City	20	9	7	4	33	25	25
Ipswich Town	20	11	2	7	28	15	24
Liverpool	19	10	4	5	25	14	24
Everton	19	6	12	1	27	19	24
Manchester City	20	10	4	6	26	25	24
West Ham United	20	9	5	6	37	28	23
Derby County	19	8	6	5	32	27	22
Newcastle United	19	8	6	5	28	25	22
Burnley	20	9	4	7	35	32	22
Sheffield United	19	8	5	6	27	30	21
Birmingham City	20	8	4	9	31	29	20
Middlesbrough	19	7	6	6	25	26	20
Leeds United	19	7	4	8	25	21	18
Wolverhampton Wanderers	19	5	8	6	22	25	18
Coventry City	20	5	8	7	28	37	18
Tottenham Hotspur	19	6	5	8	23	25	17
Queens Park Rangers	20	6	5	9	22	27	17
Arsenal	19	6	4	9	23	25	16
Leicester City	18	5	5	8	20	25	15
Chelsea	19	3	8	8	19	35	14
Carlisle United	20	5	3	12	17	24	13
Luton Town	19	1	7	11	17	31	9

DIVISION TWO

	DIVISION TWO						
	P	W	D	L	F.	A.	Pts.
Manchester United	20	14	3	3	34	13	31
Sunderland	19	10	5	4	32	15	25
Norwich City	19	9	7	3	26	14	25
West Bromwich A.	20	8	7	5	24	15	23
Hull City	20	8	7	5	25	32	23
Aston Villa	19	8	6	5	28	15	22
Oxford United	20	8	5	7	18	28	21
Bristol City	19	7	6	6	16	12	20
Notts County	20	6	8	6	25	27	20
Nottingham Forest	20	8	4	8	23	20	20
Bristol Rovers	20	7	6	7	18	22	20
Blackpool	20	6	7	7	18	16	19
Bolton Wanderers	19	7	5	7	21	20	19
York City	20	7	5	8	25	26	19
Fulham	19	6	5	8	22	18	17
Orient	19	4	9	6	14	22	17
Southampton	18	5	5	8	24	28	15
Oldham Athletic	18	5	5	8	18	22	15
Cardiff City	18	5	4	9	20	29	14
Sheffield Wednesday	20	4	6	10	20	29	14
Portsmouth	20	3	8	9	14	26	14
Millwall	19	4	5	10	19	28	13

DIVISION THREE

	DIVISION THREE						
	P	W	D	L	F.	A.	Pts.
Blackburn Rovers	20	11	6	3	26	15	28
Swindon Town	21	10	7	4	34	29	27
Crystal Palace	20	10	4	6	30	30	24
Southend United	21	9	5	7	28	20	23
Colchester United	21	8	7	6	34	26	23
Preston Northend	21	10	3	8	34	27	23
Charlton Athletic	20	10	3	7	35	31	23
Plymouth Argyle	20	10	3	7	29	26	23
Peterborough United	20	9	5	6	20	23	23
Port Vale	20	7	8	5	30	30	22
Watford	21	6	10	5	28	31	22
Wrexham	20	7	7	6	32	26	21
Hereford United	21	8	5	8	28	27	21
Walsall	20	7	6	7	31	26	20
Bury	21	7	5	9	23	22	19
Halifax Town	20	5	8	7	23	30	18
Bournemouth	18	7	2	9	17	18	16
Chesterfield	20	6	4	10	30	34	16
Gillingham	20	5	6	9	24	29	16
Grimsby Town	20	7	2	11	27	39	16
Tranmere Rovers	19	6	3	10	28	25	15
Huddersfield Town	18	6	3	9	18	27	15
Brighton and Hove	20	5	4	11	19	34	14
Aldershot	20	5	4	11	20	29	13

DIVISION FOUR

	DIVISION FOUR						
	P	W	D	L	F.	A.	Pts.
Mansfield Town	20	14	4	2	43	19	32
Shrewsbury Town	21	14	4	3	40	18	32
Rotherham United	20	10	7	3	36	17	27
Lincoln City	18	10	5	3	41	20	25
Chester	21	11	3	7	31	17	25
Northampton Town	20	10	4	6	41	25	24
Reading	19	10	3	6	32	21	23
Bradford	21	10	3	8	24	19	23
Newport County	19	10	3	6	32	27	23
Southport	20	7	7	6	24	24	21
Exeter City	20	8	5	7	21	24	21
Torquay United	21	6	8	7	20	26	20
Hartlepool	17	7	4	6	24	24	18
Cambridge United	21	5	8	8	24	27	18
Crewe Alexandra	21	6	6	9	15	21	18
Rochdale	20	5	8	7	25	35	18
Barnsley	21	6	5	10	22	26	17
Brentford	20	6	5	9	19	24	17
Darlington	23	6	5	12	30	40	17
Swansea City	22	7	3	12	25	42	17
Stockport County	20	6	4	10	26	39	16
Doncaster Rovers	21	4	5	12	24	42	13
Scunthorpe United	20	2	8	10	18	35	12
Workington	20	4	1	15	12	37	9

SCOTTISH LEAGUE

	DIVISION ONE						
	P	W	D	L	F.	A.	Pts.
Celtic	14	11	2	1	37	11	24
Rangers	14	11	2</				

SYDNEY SOCCER SCENE

BY JOE SMITH AND JOHN O'BRIEN

WINNING CHANCE?

By JOHN O'BRIEN

Any competition — in any sport — has to give all contestants some sort of a winning chance. If it doesn't, the competition is doomed to box office failure.

I would advise NSW Federation clubs to digest that statement because it could vitally affect next season's premiership.

Let's face facts. There are 12 teams in the NSW first division. But half of them don't have a dog's chance of winning the title.

Not even the keenest of their supporters would put money on teams like Sutherland Shire, Granville, Yugal Prague, Auburn, Balgownie or South Sydney Croatia. They are the make-weights, the sides thrown in to make up the number.

Maybe I'm being unfair to South Sydney. Their triumph in this year's Rothmans Cup may inspire them to greatness in 1975. But I'd need very long odds to bet on it.

In other words, the 1975 premiership, desperately needing stronger teams and better competition, is again going to be confined to an elite few clubs.

St George Budapest, Hakoah Eastern Suburbs, Apia Leichhardt and Western Suburbs should again dominate the campaign. Possibly Marconi Fairfield and Pan Hellenic will also challenge for top honours. But the title battle seems fated to be usual closed shop.

What is the alternative? It's not easy to find the answer without being ruthless to the point of kicking out all teams which have no hope of becoming premiers.

This would leave only six sides in the comp. That wouldn't work.

On the other hand, if the leading six clubs could join forces with top clubs from Victoria, and possibly South Australia, Queensland and Newcastle, a better competition would surely evolve.

This sort of thinking is behind the constant pushing from Hakoah, St George, Apia and a few others for a national league. It caused Hakoah to issue an ultimatum... "give us a stronger league or we'll revert to amateur Soccer".

It is a pity the advocates of the national league had no success with their planning. They have been bogged down by the smaller clubs, the clubs which cannot afford to play in a national league but still don't want anyone else to play in it.

Assuming the 1975 NSW premiership is unchanged, who win will?

Inevitably, Hakoah and Saints — the two best teams this year — will once more be short-priced favourites. Wests must improve considerably on player recruitment and team selection before

they can be fancied. Apia have the necessary credentials and with only slight improvement on this year's results will be strong challengers.

There, I fear, the list of possibles must end. It would be expecting a lot from the talented Rale Rasic and Ray Richards to expect them to inspire Pan Hellenic and Marconi respectively to success.

Which brings me back to the opening comments. What is being achieved in a Soccer competition which can only be won by a minority of its contestants?

Sydney Soccer, far from improving, will be dealt further body blows if its few star performers decide to settle in Britain.

Already the stylish Adrian Alston has made his mark with Luton Town. Peter Ollerton is having trials with West Bromwich Albion and Jimmy Rooney is getting a run with Queens Park Rangers. The Sydney scene is already underpopulated as far as genuine talent is concerned. It can ill afford to lose ANY good players.

This reminds me of a conversation recently when I was asked how many Sydney stars would be successful in English first division. There are several who might make the grade but the only one I'd really bank on is Harry Williams, the Aboriginal full-back of St George.

Harry has everything in his favour. In his early 20s, but with several years of top experience behind him, Williams could be a sensation with the right English club.

If you think I'm kidding, look at the case of Don Shanks. Last season, Shanks played for Balgownie in the NSW second division. He returned to his English home and has starred in first division with Luton Town.

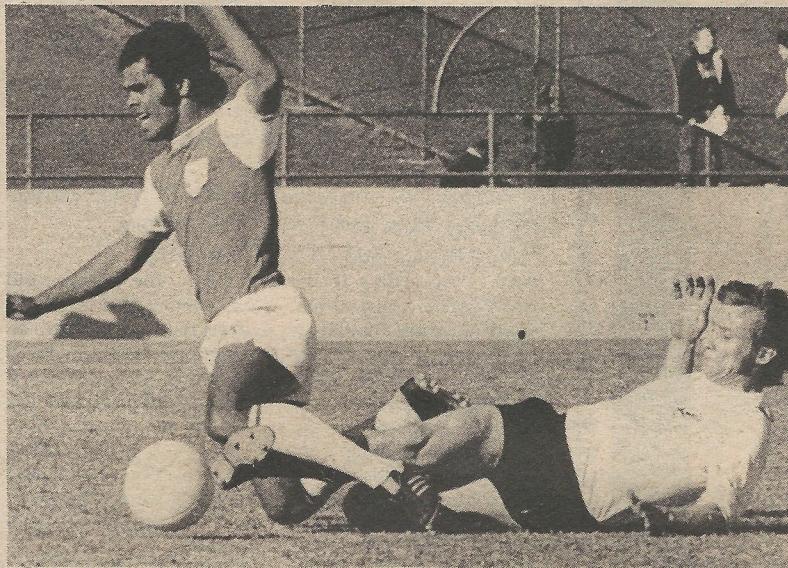
Only last week, Shanks was transferred to Queens Park Rangers at a \$70,000 fee.

Harry Williams is a better full-back than Don Shanks. That's not just my opinion. Ask St George if they'd swap Williams for Shanks and they'd tell you "nothing doing".

Williams must be one of the speediest defenders in world Soccer. He made his international debut on Australia's pre-World Cup this year and also came on as substitute against Chile in the World Cup 0-0 draw in Berlin's Olympic Stadium.

I would rate Harry Williams the most exciting player in Australian Soccer. Let's hope the Poms don't find out about him!

The most exciting player in Australia... that's JOHN O'BRIEN'S assessment of HARRY WILLIAMS (St George Budapest). Here Williams is brought down by Vince Radcliffe (Wests) who has wrapped his feet around Harry's legs.



TRANSFER BUSINESS IN A FLURRY

By JOHN O'BRIEN

There has been quite a flurry in transfer business in NSW Soccer in recent weeks, but, surprisingly, the targets for the cheque-wavers have been defenders.

This is strange. It is generally accepted that good forwards are as precious as gold nuggets while defenders are in plentiful supply. So why the rush to buy destroyers rather than creators?

Apia Leichhardt started it all by paying nearly \$6,000 for Col Bennett, the Sutherland Shire centre-half. Bennett is a solid, though unspectacular, stopper who may, or may not, break through to international status.

Then Marconi Fairfield invested a similar figure in Bennett's team mate at Sutherland, goalkeeper Allan Maher. Although Maher is a good young goalkeeper, wouldn't it have been better business for Marconi to pay the money for a match-winner... a goalscoring forward?

Last week, all the Sydney transfer activity centred around Peter Wilson, for whom a \$14,000 fee was first quoted. Nobody doubts Wilson's value but once again, intending buyers are ready to pay big for a centre-half.

I have always believed the centre-half, or stopper, or sweeper, has the easiest job in Soccer. Players with only minimum skills have made a big success of the position. After all, it is easier to stop others playing than to initiate things yourself.

While Peter Wilson, Col Bennett and Allan Maher have been so much in the transfer news, one exceptionally talented winger has been kicking his heels in Sydney unable to get a new club.

His name is Keith Cockburn. About three years ago, Cockburn was transferred from Melbourne's Wilhelmina

trials with two London teams, West Ham United and Queens Park Rangers.

Rowden's parents are financing the trip. Taylor, on the other hand, is being sponsored by NSW Federation second division club, Toongabbie.

Coach of Toongabbie is Stan Ackerley, one of Australia's World Cup heroes in 1969, who had a long and distinguished career with the Apia Leichhardt club.

Ackerley is a Mancunian. He played as a youngster for Manchester United, along with Nobby Stiles, Dennis Viollet, Bobby Charlton and other great United names.

It is natural that Stan should have thought of Manchester United when Toongabbie decided to send young Neil Taylor to the U.K. to improve his Soccer knowledge.

Despite his youth, Neil Taylor has been holding down a first team place with Toongabbie.

Ian Rowden, a full-back, has excellent credentials. He captained the NSW Under 14 team and also the Under 15s — both teams winning national junior titles.

This year, Rowden played in the first-ever Schools' international match between Australia and England at Sydney Sports Ground on August 10. He was one of the few

WAITING FOR \$2,000

By JOE SMITH

During the World Cup this year, Australia's international players shared the same Hamburg Volkspark Stadium with big names in the West German Soccer hierarchy such as Franz Beckenbauer, Paul Breitner, Gerd Muller and Uli Hoeneß. And the Aussie boys were not disgraced.

But the paths of the West German and Australian players have travelled in sharply different directions in the five months since.

Consider what the Cup has meant to German and Australian players in terms of hard cash.

Peter Wilson, Jimmy Mackay, Jack Reilly and the other Australians still wait patiently for the \$2,000 or so they expect to receive from World Cup participation. They have had no chance at all to cash in on the fame they earned in the Cup.

But Gerd Muller has pocketed an estimated \$135,000 from various non-Soccer sources since last July. Beckenbauer, Breitner and Hoeneß have done even better — each getting some \$160,000 from advertising and other fund-raising avenues.

Surprisingly, Hoeneß is the wealthiest of the whole bunch — though certainly not the glamour player of the West German side.

If players' cash from the Cup shows vast gaps between Australia and West Germany, how about the national Federation pay-off?

Australia is expecting a cut from Cup profits of around \$150,000.

home team players to compete favourably with the more polished and experienced visiting English kids.

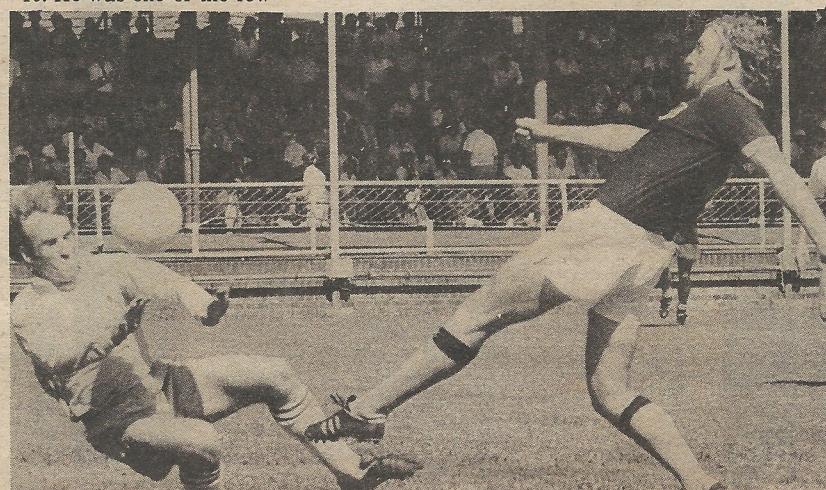
Ian's father Bruce Rowden said: "I have been in touch with several English clubs and was given a good hearing by all. They said they would be delighted to give the boy a run and the ball is now in his court."

One Sydney club anxious to see how young Bowden fares is Western Suburbs. Wests per-

suaded Ian to join them after he played for Australia's Schoolboys and they have high hopes that he will improve in England.

Bruce Rowden said: "The boy's only real worry is how he'll settle in strange surroundings. I hope the British climate isn't too severe for him."

I assured Mr Rowden that, once his son became involved in big-time Soccer, he wouldn't even notice the weather!



West Germany, the Cup host nation, expects nearly \$5,000,000.

And while we're on the subject of money, could anything be more ridiculous than the transfer fee paid by Stoke City to Leicester City for England goalkeeper Peter Shilton?

Ignore the guesswork about the actual fee — my information is Stoke paid a record 325,000 pounds. That's about \$640,000. Or, if you like, more than a hundred times the transfer paid last week for Australian World Cup squad goalkeeper Allan Maher!

So one Shilton is as good as 100 Mahers?

Following the Shilton transfer, several of England's greatest goalies of the past were interviewed and asked

what they thought of the deal.

The old timers included Bert Williams, Gil Merrick, Sam Bartram and Harry Gregg, who happened to be an Irishman.

All appeared to think Stoke were crazy to pay such money for a goalkeeper. Bert Williams, a great stylist for Wolves and England in the 1950s, commented: "What a waste of money. I can go into the street tomorrow and find a lad to do the job."

Australian Soccer folk like to follow the trends set in British football. But let's hope Australia never imports the nonsensical transfer market that is making a joke of player deals in England.

We have enough problems without that!

TIGHTEN THE MONEY BELT NEXT YEAR!

BY JOE SMITH

There will be a marked tightening-up in the financial set-up in all NSW Soccer clubs in 1975.

Hard-up clubs have not accepted something they refused to believe for years... that they just cannot afford to finance the expensive semi-professional game any longer.

Some are asking their players to sign for Soccer able to support ever-increasing costs are drastically reduced terms. Other state they will operate on a "semi-amateur" basis — an untidy description but it obviously is much less expensive than "semi-pro". It is also possible that a few clubs will capitulate altogether and quit Federation Soccer.

The only teams in Sydney first division embarked on a policy of local youth encouragement,

and it will be surprising if they pay big transfer fees for any player. Wests, realising that their members were alarmed at this year's Soccer outlay — amounting to \$117,000 — are determined to run their affairs more cheaply.

Hakoah, spending probably as much as Wests, are demanding either a better competition (the projected national league) or a return to amateur Soccer. It is doubtful if Hakoah would quit the professional game in the immediate future but there is no doubt club officials are thinking on these lines.

Apia say they reduced

spending this year and new team manager, George Keith, is convinced it can be reduced even more. Not only can it be done... it will be done, he said.

Marconi, unlike Wests, Saints and Hakoah, do not get 100 per cent support from their licensed club.

The Marconi social club makes big profits but those profits are not automatically channelled into the Soccer teams. If there should be a rift between the licensed club and the Soccer club, Marconi Fairfield would be struggling to exist as a member of the "big five" affluent first division clubs.

It is clearly nonsensical when a club attracts, say, \$15,000 a year in match receipts and spends \$120,000 on its teams. Subsidies are all very well — in fact they are essential — but the code loses all sense of perspective when its expenditure exceeds income by eight times!

The lesson is clear. The free-spending days are over. The days when top players could demand the earth, and receive it from wealthy clubs, have gone for good.

When Safeway United put a transfer fee of \$14,000 on Australia's World Cup captain Peter Wilson, nobody was killed in the stampede to buy this outstanding player. Within a few days, there was talk of \$8,000 being the top figure for Wilson... and not many clubs were interested even at that reduced price.

Peter Wilson is good value at \$14,000. But in the present cash climate, with economies evident throughout the game in NSW, not one team wanted to invest that much in Wilson.

Sutherland live on a financial tight-rope and had to sell star players Col Bennett and Alan Maher recently. Safeway United have had talks with second division Balgownie and decided it would save costs to merge with them. Relegated Canterbury have debts

expected to make an eagerly-awaited trip here. And Rangers, perhaps the biggest name club in U.K. Soccer, have also agreed to play in Sydney in May or June.

These are the sort of tourists we need. Nothing is achieved by bringing English third division teams here. Bristol Rovers and Bournemouth cut no ice with hard-to-please local spectators.

What troubles me is the way "hints" about 1975 tours are filtering through from NSW Federation members. Which brings me back to my original plea... let's have professional control of Soccer's dealings with the media.

page to a feature on goalkeeper Jan Tomaszewski. It urged Soccer fans to go to the Sydney Sports Ground on February 2 to see Tomaszewski in action.

But of course Poland's brilliant World Cup goalkeeper won't be at the Sports Ground on that date. He'll still be in Poland!

Frankly, I'm not worried about which Polish team tours here next year — so long as the tourists play good football and bring one or two big name stars.

What does concern me is the quite ridiculous machinations at Federation level and the inference that the Press are the last who need to be told about tour team plans.

Be sure the Federation will keenly seek newspaper support in the weeks leading to the Australia v Legia Warsaw game in Sydney. The media will help to the maximum... as always.

But has the Federation done anything to earn such support from the media?

It is no good blaming overworked secretary Aulden Brown. He has enough office work to handle without having to do a professional PR and Press Officer job as well.

It is up to president Peter McCann to sit down with his executive and insist on what Gough Whitlam once called "open Government".

One Sydney newspaper even devoted most of a



One of the most popular players in Sydney Soccer, DANNY WALSH, quit the big-time two years ago. Recently, Danny has been starring in the commercial competition. Could he be tempted to make a first division come-back?

DANNY WALSH FORGOTTEN MAN?

By JOE SMITH

The forgotten man of Sydney Soccer, former Hakoah Eastern Suburbs and Australian mid-field star Danny Walsh, is back on deck.

Danny shocked everyone a couple of years ago by deciding to retire from the game.

He seemed to be out of favour for first team duty with Hakoah and, unlike several other veterans who hang on while they can still make a buck from the code, Walsh refused to accept money for reserve team status.

Lately, though, he has been performing in the summer commercial competition and observers claim he is going great guns.

I always thought Danny retired too early. In 1969, he was rated highly enough to be in the Australian World Cup squad which did so well against South Korea and Japan in qualifying games in Seoul.

The little man — one of the smallest, but best players in Sydney — may not like being described as a veteran. He is still only thirty-ish.

Maybe Danny Walsh could be tempted out of retirement now he has tasted the old competitive urge in the commercial series.

Ladies' Soccer, whether you like it or not, is definitely a fact of life these days!

In England it goes from strength to strength. On the continent of Europe, big crowds attend leading games. And even the conservative Asians have now embraced it.

That's why it is not surprising to see Australian girls getting in on the act.



RAY RICHARDS, in the mood to celebrate after a successful match for Australia last season, will guide Marconi Fairfield as player-manager in 1975. But even the talent and personality of this great character is unlikely to take the first division title to Fairfield.

PUBLIC RELATIONS TO IMPROVE

By JACK O'BRIEN

The NSW Soccer Federation plans to improve its public relations set-up, and could even bring in professional PR men to help give the game a better image. Hooray! And not before time. Because right now the Federation hasn't a clue how to run its PR or its publicity.

Take the case of the projected visit here by Polisch club side LKS Lodz.

When this tour was first mentioned to me by a member of the Federation executive, he assured me that LKS Lodz would be bringing all their stars from the 1974 World Cup with them.

When I protested that LKS had only one Cup player on their books — the excellent goalkeeper Jan Tomaszewski — the man from the Federation insisted I had to be wrong.

However, this conversation started something moving. A check was made with the

Women's Soccer is really getting off the ground in Australia these days. Here the so-successful St George Budapest girls do some floodlight training and there's a real professional style about the way Pat O'Connor, the star of the team, heads the ball.

This compromise was agreed. Unfortunately nobody at the NSW Soccer Federation bothered to tell the Press about the change of tour teams. So we merely continued to write about LKS Lodz even after Sydney Soccer officials knew that team would not be coming to Australia.

One Sydney newspaper even devoted most of a

GEORGE YELLAND

REPORTS

GEORGE YELLAND

REFEREES ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 1974 A.G.M. of the Victorian Referees was held at the Eeama Club, South Melbourne.

Use of this ideally situated and spacious hall was obtained through the good offices of referee George Apostolou.

The meeting was a model which the V.S.F. might well follow.

Reports were concise and clear. Questions, relevant to the reports, were asked and answered in clear terms and the meeting was conducted in an orderly fashion throughout.

Secretary Colin Tuffield, due to promotion in his work, found it impossible to carry on in that demanding office, but offered himself as candidate for the presidency. Vice president Bob Randall also challenged for the top office, but president Roger Lamb was re-elected by a comfortable margin.

NEW SECRETARY

The referees have been fortunate, over the years, in finding hard working, dedicated secretaries and the record looks likely to continue.

A man who has been a colossal worker on the social side, John Blake, was elected secretary, unopposed.

He is the type of man to spare no effort in making a success of the post. Hans Verniers, who has proved such a worthy successor to Wally Bates, continues as treasurer and Michael Gaut carries on as assistant secretary.

Roger Lamb and Wally

Bates are representatives to the National Federation.

One of the hardest working and most important committees, the Social Committee, will consist of John Blake, Colin Tuffield, John Dickinson, Tom Sterling and Jimmy Caruso.

XMAS PARTY

Over 70 members attended the A.G.M., one of the most successful of recent years. Last Sunday, the Social Committee held its annual Xmas Party for referee's children.

It took place at Monbulk and the arrangements were beautifully organised by Mr. and Mrs. John Blake.

Santa Claus, of course, put in an appearance and a great time was enjoyed by more than 100 adults and children.

Ex State League star Jimmy Miller, now a qualified referee, was present with wife and family.

Latest news is that Jim Dale, winner of the first two Metropolitan Best and Fairest awards, will go through the course and qualify as a referee in 1975.

It is to be hoped that many more ex players and Soccer lovers generally will take the referees' course in 1975.

Victoria is sadly short of qualified whistlemen.



These men will lead the Victorian Branch of the Australian Referees' Federation during 1975. The executive committee is as follows:

Back row (left to right): Bernie Finnegan, Carlos Contini, Terry Tovey, Michael Gaut (Ass. Sec.), Jimmy Dixon, Bob Randall (Vice-Pres.).

Front Row (left to right): Hans Verniers (Treasurer), Roger Lamb (President), John Blake (Secretary).

METRO ROUND-UP BY George Yelland

For much of season 1974, Metropolitan Second Division was wide open with at least five clubs justifiable promotion prospects.

In recent years Princes Park have made a habit of setting the pace in this division and last season was no exception.

They set off in great style and led the table for half the season.

Turning point came with a crushing defeat at Sixth Avenue, which also marked Waverley City's emergence as the strong side of the division.

From that point, Princes Park faded out of calculations. It is an interesting situation which seems to recur year after year.

One wonders if the Princes Park club really wants to make Division One, or whether they have the resources and ground facilities to maintain position if they achieve it.

Princes Park is one of the few clubs left in the Met, which is strongly ethnic. Being of Greek origin, one wonders if they could survive at the top, in view of clubs like South Melbourne Hellas, Fitzroy United Alexander and Western Suburbs who perform above them and carry a large measure of the available Greek support.

EASTERN SUBURBS
Another club which would probably have had a more active role in promotion than it did, due to a long injury list, is Dandenong City.

Since their fall from Division One, a year or two since, the club has struggled. They finally found a new ground, but an unduly wet season and a too early move on to it, resulted in a quagmire and postponed games.

Accidents to players, including an inordinate number of broken legs, upset last season's determined effort to regain Division One. Soccer needs a top club in the Dandenong area, just as it does down the peninsula, and one would

hope to see State League soccer in both areas in the not too distant future.

Looking at the situation in Dandenong realistically, there is no immediate appearance of the all round professional approach and influx of big money necessary to achieve and maintain a position in State League.

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It was tough on Croydon, up to a point, but in fairness they did not perform like a promotion side in many away games.

They are setting about preparations for next season in a way which suggests they really mean business.

LATE RISE
North Carlton, another Greek oriented club, had a disastrous start and for

much of the first half of the season, appeared likely to make a swift return to Third Division.

The second half of the year was quite a different story and they finished in joint sixth position with Springvale and Richmond. Actually, goal average left them eighth on the ladder, but it was a remarkable late recovery.

NEWCOMERS PROSPECTS

Always a tough competition, Division Two looks to be a heartstopper in 1975.

Box Hill and Yallourn, down from the top division, have embarked on a long term programme to achieve top honours.

I think Box Hill will be up among the leaders, but Yallourn are likely to find the going tough until the club settles down to its reconstitution plans.

From Division Three come two fine clubs. Brighton, with fifty years of tradition behind them, are determined to carry on where they left off at the end of last season.

Without the genius of Bobby McLachlan, they may find the going tougher than expected. There is a new spirit of urgency in the club, due in no small measure to the bubbling enthusiasm of team manager and club chairman, Les Sharrock.

Bayswater, relatively a new club, have developed a colossal team and club spirit. They have a great reservoir of junior talent and once they solve their ground problems I believe will become a great force in the next few years, in Victorian Soccer. I think they will go well in 1975 in Division Two.

GREAT POTENTIAL
Moreland, a club which graced the State League some twelve years since, is a club with plenty of potential.

In numerous games last season, they looked world beaters and yet somehow managed to lose.

In the end they just

managed to avoid relegation, with a superior goal average to Prahran City.

In past years, Moreland have been slow starters and finished strongly. Last season was the reverse.

They started well and appeared likely to have a lot to say about promotion. They faded badly and just managed to hang on to Division Two status.

DRAW SPECIALISTS
Springvale had the unique record of being the V.S.F.'s draw specialists. They drew two more games than Richmond and Western Suburbs and at least three more than any other club in the Met.

It is easy to see that a little more or less good fortune, and they might have been relegated or promoted.

Richmond who drew more than a third of their games, are a strong, well balanced club.

Difficult to down on their sloping ground at Burnley Oval, they had a poor away record.

These two clubs might be well worth following on the pools.

Between them, they drew 18 games out of 44 played.

Whilst on the subject of draws, it is well worth remembering that in 1974, one game in every five in the Met, ended all square.

The break down is enlightening.

Division One, 31 draws. Division Two, 32. Division Three, 26 and Division Four, 18. When 1975 Pools revert to Australian games, remember the top divisions of the Met.

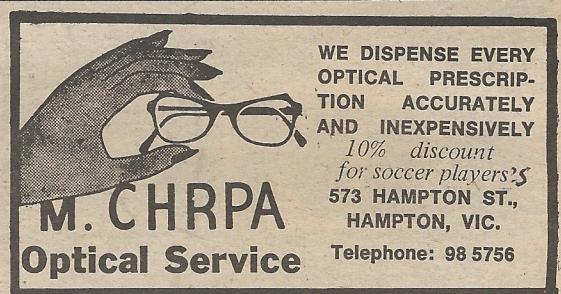
PROMOTED CLUB
Newport deservedly came up into Division Two at the end of 1973 and started well in the higher sphere.

As the season progressed they lost their grip and finished in fourth bottom position.

Newport is another club which is strongly ethnic. Polish in administration, it is also largely Polish in playing staff.

It is to be hoped that the

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Hans Timmerman, retiring Officer, collects voting slips from scrutineers Michael Sirianni (left) and Phillipa Vauxelle (centre).

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SOCER GOSSIP

By JOHN MARTIN

LET'S hope Victoria — and other states for that matter — get a fair go when it comes to selecting our next World Cup squad.

With the announcement on Saturday in Sydney that the Australian Soccer Federation have appointed Eric Worthington national director of coaching he will have his work cut out to keep an eye on all promising players in other states.

Eric lives in Sydney and he will soon name a coach — not necessarily Rale Rasic — to assist him with his task. The job will be advertised worldwide. It appears the ASF will prepare our side in a professional way for the next World Cup finals to be held in Argentina in 1978.

Naturally, Worthington and the new man will both be resident in Sydney. It appears that Sydney players again will have the best chance of proving themselves for World Cup honors because they are on the spot.

We understand Worthington will rely on coaching directors in each state to nominate players they think are National team prospects. In theory it sounds good. But we'll have to wait and see what transpires later this month when Worthington selects his team to meet Legia of Poland. This could be a good guideline for the future.

xxx
IT is good to see a Victorian has been appointed vice-president to the Australian Soccer Federation. Mr Michael Weinstein, one of the most progressive officials the VSF have known, on Saturday replaced Mr Theo Marmaras, VSF president, as vice-president to Sir Arthur George on the ASF board of management.

This means that Victoria will not be "left out in the cold". Weinstein is a tireless worker and, like Sir Arthur, realises the future of the game in Australia rests with youth.

We can be assured that he will do all in his power to encourage more juniors, not only in Victoria but in Australia, to kick the round-ball. He is fortunate to have Mr Marmaras at his side to guide him with ASF matters.

When questioned about his appointment yesterday, Mr Weinstein said: "I see it as a compliment to Victoria. I realise replacing the Victorian president Mr Marmaras, a foundation member of the Australia body, will be a hard task.

"I hope I can do as good a job as he did. But with his guidance I think I can.

"Youngsters should dedicate themselves to the game and make themselves available for the World Cup as there will be many openings," he said.

xxx

were interested in letting Jack Reilly go to Hellas in exchange for their great mid-fielder Ian Marshall because Hakoah badly need some mid-field strength.

Bill MacArthur (Apia) will be in Melbourne next week and he's looking for a club so he may end up with the St Kilda side as we can't see Hellas having two top goalies now that Marko Fode has retired.

xxx

GEELONG Soccer Club should be in the Metropolitan League. When the VSF put this club in the Provisional League "to help build up soccer in the country" it was a mistake.

The reason being is that they cannot get back into the big time and a club which is run on such excellent lines as Geelong should be playing in the Melbourne area if not in the State League itself.

Their club administration is second to none. They hold the record for collecting the most money for Soccer Pools of all the clubs in the VSF.

One man who thinks they should be in Metro League is Vic Mansan, the VSF deputy chairman. He told supporters and club officials this at their annual presentation night on Friday.

BRIAN EDGELEY has been re-appointed coach of Mooroolbark United for next season despite rumors that he would be coaching Hakoah St. Kilda in 1975.

Archie Campbell, the little man with a big heart who used to thrill George Cross fans with his rat-a-tat-style of shooting in the early '60s, is Brian's assistant. This is a new appointment by the Barkers and one that augurs well for next season.

I think the Barkers realise they will have a fight on their hands with newly-promoted Sunshine City next year and this is why they have invested in Campbell.

Mooroolbark's committee is the same with one exception — Joe Dines, their hard-working publicity man, has been made a vice-president of the club. Tony van der Ploeg has resigned as a committee man because of business pressure but he retains his job as trainer.

In recognition of his long service to the Barkers Tony has been made the first life member of the club. He is one of the two soccer enthusiasts who started Mooroolbark United. The other is Renus de Visser whose son is a promising goalie with the Barkers.

It is gratifying to know that club members have met the Lilydale Shire councillors and have asked for ground improvements for next season.

xxx
DON'T be surprised if Fitzroy United Alexander announce the signing of a couple — or more — top State League stars this week.

I understand they have \$16,000 available to buy the best they can for next season. It seems that both the Greek-sponsored clubs in our top league have been spending money on new signings as if it were going out of business during the past few weeks.

This of course is all to the benefit of the fans. Next year the Hellas v Alexander games will attract more and more supporters. Perhaps this year's 7000 crowd for that big Alexander-Hellas clash at Middle Park will be broken.

Hellas have signed Canberra star George Campbell and former Alexander goalie John Kennedy. Rumors were that Hakoah St Kilda

He said he was so impressed with Geelong officials this year when they presented their case to the VSF, he felt they would be a great asset to Metro soccer. Another man who strongly believes this is the club's capable secretary Chris van Beek. With more than 12 years experience with the club he has been one of their hardest working officials.

Geelong's player-coach Sandy Milne won their best and fairest award while Jimmy Robertson with 18 goals was their top scorer. John Slade, who is now 39 and looking 10 years younger, has chalked up his 600th soccer game.

Many Melbourne fans will remember John used to play for Hakoah and Box Hill in goal. He also used to write for Soccer News in the early days.

Geelong's chairman Alex Sokoloff has been with the club for 16 years and also is dead keen to see his team return to Metropolitan soccer again soon.

xxx
BILL MILNE is now coaching Melbourne Under 12's on Tuesday and Thursday at Elwood reserve while Melbourne's champion under 10's train every Sunday morning on the same ground.

type of landladies that are Sowiak. an important part of the youngs' well-being.

West Bromwich Albion's Commercial Manager Les Thorley, pleased with the response to the film and the image it created for his club, had this to say:

"This excellent film looks at all aspects of an apprentice and his job in the club. It is now being shown to youngsters who may want to join us in the future and their parents."

"The lads had no outside help with the film. They made it entirely under their own steam.

Well, Tom Ostrowski, needing first and foremost a goal scorer, seemed to have got his man.

It appears almost certain that Polonia will have the services of ace striker Eddy Lerch, just 35 years old, in time for the beginning of the Ampol Cup series.

He comes from the Polish First Division club ROW Rybnik and last season got 20 goals for his club. He is fit, skilful and has at least two seasons left in him.

Just the type of player Mike needs in his young Polonia side. Polonia secretary Mr Ostrowski, I was told, is also, discussing terms with another prominent player recommended by former Victorian champion Vic Janczyk, but the most important need for the club was to sign an experienced goal scorer.

Soccer fans in general want to see a strong Polonia, maybe 1975 with Eddy Lerch, the club will forge ahead again.

xxx

Yugoslavia are proud of their cup specialist Hajduk Split. The illustrious club have won the Yugoslav Football Cup for the third consecutive year. They defeated Borac Banja Luka 1-0 but not without many anxious moments.

The match was played in Belgrade and although B.B.L. are a Second Division club, they showed a very high standard and Hajduk, although firm favourite, had to fight all the way.

Soccer in Yugoslavia is in a very healthy situation. It became the first communist country to recognise professional soccer though the government only reluctantly agreed, but really had little choice.

Far too many players were leaving the country at a time when they were officially amateurs but in fact were under the lap poorly rewarded part timers.

Simply the flood had to be stopped when eight of the crack Partizan club of Belgrade together with coach and manager left Yugoslavia a few weeks after they reached the European Champions Cup Final, I believe in 1966.

Also within a period of a year, around the time of the success of the Partizan Belgrade team, more than 100 top First Division players of high repute left the country to play in West Germany, Holland, Belgium, France and Switzerland.

In Switzerland of course they were highly paid amateurs. Some players from Yugoslavia

even found their way to the U.S.A., Australia and South Africa.

It was this exodus which forced the Yugoslav government to make professionalism legal so that the clubs at least can sell their players.

The compensation in the form of a transfer fee not only helps clubs but also brings into the country valuable foreign currency.

x x x

Clubs in Eastern European countries are supposed to be amateur. However new clubs have been formed in Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Rumania and even in Russia to hold star players that would earn big money in the West. Top clubs are very largely backed by the Army. This enables players to draw a good salary, can concentrate on soccer and are generally leading the life of stars.

Naturally other clubs have always objected but with very little success.

So you find that such teams as Honved in Hungary, Legia in Poland which will tour Australia in the new year, CCA of Rumania and CNDA of Bulgaria are influential and strong clubs and compare with the best in the Western World.

x x x

Sunshine City may not be invited back to Tasmania, but Richmond certainly will be next year.

Richmond toured Tasmania and in an entertaining match in Hobart against Rapid lost 4-0 but left a good impression.

Richmond's ladies also played against the local ladies from Rapid Hobart which the Tasmanians won 4-1 in fine style.

Highlight in the way of entertainment provided for the Richmond party was a visit to the Casino.

x x x

Alex Purdie, Hakoah's former stalwart is the Middle Park club's new coach.

After his playing days with Hakoah ended, Purdie went back to live in Scotland and has returned to Melbourne barely six months ago.

He played with Hakoah many years, never lost contact with the club. Oldtimers will remember Purdie as a fast and fearless winger who could turn defences inside out with his sudden changes of direction.

Above all, he was a good and loyal clubman and it will be up to him to instill this sort of spirit into his team. I think he will go well as a coach.

x x x

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ON THE BALL
WITH LEN STONE

WITH the high rate of inflation, more and more attention is focused on professional clubs' apprentices.

Many clubs now produce booklets explaining an apprentice role in European soccer mainly to persuade parents of promising youngsters that a career as a professional is not such a bad job — provided they show enough dedication to make the grade.

In the English Midland town West Bromwich, twelve enterprising apprentices of the local club Albion, one of the more famous clubs in Britain, put down their boots and went into the film making business to produce a film called "Life as a soccer apprentice".

It is certainly a film with a difference. Not only did the future West Bromwich Albion players star in the 'movie' but they also wrote the script, edited and produced a 40 minutes most interesting

mini-epic which shows in detail how an apprentice of a famous English soccer club spends his working day.

It showed the duties and roles each of the youngsters had to perform and they interviewed each other in a surprisingly expert manner.

They even involved the vital section of backroom staff who ensure that the youngsters eat the right food, look after themselves off the pitch in a manner fitting of a person in public life. There is even a segment on the

dot on the 'i' was missing. The coaches knew it and the hard working Polonia officials realised it. Now with the help of former star player Vic Janczyk, they have at last been able to do something about it.

First they announced the re-appointment of Mike De Brueckere as coach for the 1975 season which is good news.

Secondly new president of Polonia is the very accomplished Mr Basil

CURTAIN TO COME DOWN

THE curtain is about to come down on one of the greatest years on record for soccer in Victoria. There has been so much achieved in the past 12 months that it is not possible to record all the achievements here.

Probably the biggest step forward in the round-ball game in Victoria was the introduction of the pools. Although they have not made the impact the promoters had hoped, they are at least holding their own at this stage.

It has been disappointing for the promoters — and the punters — that there has not been a big winner in Australia during the past few weeks since they were introduced.

It badly needs one to give it a boost. Should a big winner come soon it will be made but if the pools continue to drag on with only small payouts then their image could take a big nose dive which will be difficult to control.

Investments will not

increase until that big jackpot goes off. The promoters are as concerned about this as the investors are themselves. But nevertheless the pools are here and the publicity they are giving soccer amounts to thousands of dollars a week and it is promotion that cannot be bought.

Australia's first involvement in the World Cup finals also was a big lift for the game particularly in Victoria where soccer has always

been the Cinderella winter sport. The metropolitan dailies — for the first time — excelled themselves with their coverage, even if one Metropolitan daily journalist did have to pay his own fare to West Germany to cover the games for his newspaper!

Australia did not set the world on fire with its performance in the finals but then no one expected any miracles as it was a miracle we got there in the first place!

But Australia did not disgrace itself especially in that game against West Germany, the eventual winners of the tournament. All talk about the Socceroos being thrashed 6-0 finished in a creditable 3-0 defeat for the underdogs which is not a bad effort for a team of part-time professionals.

Television played a big part in Victoria's greatest year. Channel 9 and its live telecasts of Saturday State League games did a magnificent job for Sunday attendances. They were way up on the previous season. It was also directly responsible for the biggest crowds for the State League Cup competition in five years! I believe at long last some of the stubborn State League administrators have realised the value of television even though 95 per cent of them have no

conception of the value of publicity. Perhaps the biggest impact on TV for the game has been the excellent British Match of the Day series which appears every Wednesday evening on ABV-2 in Melbourne.

Money can't buy this kind of publicity. Youngsters all over the state sit up and watch it now that the ABC television management put the program to air at a reasonable time.

For years it used to be seen at 10.30 p.m. when all the youngsters were in bed, something soccer people could never understand.

They believed it was done deliberately not to convert Aussie rules lads from their game. Now I realise it was only bad management and shortsightedness on the part of

A Very Soccer Financial body describes

the VSF and much credit for this must go to its leader and chairman Michael Weinstein who was duly honored at last weekend's Australian Soccer Federation meeting when he was made vice-president of the national body.

And then perhaps the biggest lift the code has received in Victoria since the death of Soccer News in 1968 was the introduction of this newspaper — SOCCER WEEK. The proprietor, who also owns the Toorak Times, made a bold step when he introduced it at the beginning of the 1974 season. It has not been easy for him. Many clubs have let him down — and the sport — by not giving their support but the publication has filled a much-needed gap and has provided a link between the code and its public.

As this is the last issue of SOCCER WEEK for 1974 it is fitting to express a big thank you to the hard-working proprietor, his son Michael and family for their great contribution to a great game.

We will be back on the bookstalls for the kick-off of season 1975 — which also promises to be a great one — on THURSDAY, JANUARY 23. This will be in time for the first international of the season between Legia of Poland and Victoria at Olympic Park, on Saturday evening, January 25, at 8 p.m.

So until then, happy Christmas, happy New Year and happy soccering in 1975.

INTERNATIONAL GAME

ON Saturday evening, January 25, 1975. Victoria will play the world famous Polish club Legia of Warsaw at Olympic Park. The kick off is set for 8.00 p.m.

The Legia party of 23 officials and players will include the following Polish internationals, Deyne, Gadocha, Cmikiewicz, and Mowluk. The playing squad will be selected from:

GOALKEEPERS:

Piotr Mowluk — Polish international goalkeeper, both senior and Under 23s. Single. A student of the Academy of Physical education. Born 21-4-51.

Marian Lachowicz — Stylish keeper and reserve to Mowluk. Single. Born 25-3-52.

Jacek Olszko — Represented Poland in junior international games. A student of the Academy of Physical Education. Single. Born 10-9-55.

BACKS:

Adam Topolski — A youth Polish international. Married. Born 25-12-51.

Waldemar Tuminski — Stopper. Represented Polish Youth international sides three times. Against NED France and Czechoslovakia. Single. Born 15-2-53.

Tadeusz Cypka — Left back. Six times Polish Youth international. Married. Born 9-7-52.

Krzysztof Krajewski —

Left back. Polish Under 23s international. Single. Born 6-12-53.

Falika Niedziolka — Stopper. Married. Born 22-1-45.

Leslaw Cmikiewicz — Half back schemer or stopper. Represented Poland as a senior international 41 times. Olympic Gold Medalist when in 1972 Poland defeated Hungary 2-1. Bronze Medallist as member of Poland's team that finished third in the 1974 World Cup Finals in West Germany. Married. Born 23-10-47.

Wieslaw Pacocha — Half back. Student of the Academy of Physical Education. Single. Born 1-12-53.

Stefan Bialas — Half back. Student of the Academy of Physical Education. Married. Born 8-12-48.

Jan Pleszko — Half back or forward. Married. Born 5-2-42.

Adam Admus — Half back or forward. Single. Born 17-6-49.

Jerzy Jagiello — Half back. Single. Born 7-12-51.

Gold Medallist when in the 1972 Olympic Final against Hungary he scored both goals in the 2-1 defeat of Hungary. Bronze Medallist as captain of Poland's team that finished third in the 1974 World Cup Finals in West Germany. Voted by the experts as one of the top three players of the World Cup Finals, alongside West Germany's Franz Beckenbauer and Holland's Johan Cruyff. Married. Born 23-10-47.

Wieslaw Pacocha — Half back. Student of the Academy of Physical Education. Single. Born 1-12-53.

Stefan Bialas — Half back. Student of the Academy of Physical Education. Married. Born 8-12-48.

Jan Pleszko — Half back or forward. Married. Born 5-2-42.

Adam Admus — Half back or forward. Single. Born 17-6-49.

Jerzy Jagiello — Half back. Single. Born 7-12-51.

HALFBACKS:

Kazimierz Deyna — Schemer. Represented Poland's senior international side in 65 games. Present Polish team captain. Olympic

21-9-47. Bogdan Kwapisz — Striker. Single. Born 6-10-53.

Zbigniew Nowacki — Forward or half back. Polish youth international. Single. Born 21-1-52.

COACH:

Mr. Jaroslav Vejvoda — Previously coach of Czechoslovakian club Dukla Prague for many years.

ASSISTANT COACH:

Lucjan Brychez — Represented Poland's senior international side 60 times in his playing

days. The Legia club was founded in 1916 and during the years to 1974 the playing members of the club have won 50 Olympic Medals — 8 Gold, 12 Silver and 30 Bronze.

Legia has won the Polish championship four times and have won the Polish Cup five times.

In 1970 Legia reached the semi-finals of the European Cup losing in the second game against the eventual winners of the cup Holland's Feyenoord.

Legia's tour of Australia will include games in Melbourne, Adelaide, Sydney, Brisbane and Perth.

It's no laughing matter

By MIKE WORNER, courtesy of the SUNDAY OBSERVOR

I DON'T know whether to laugh or cry when I watch British soccer replays in the Big Match on Channel 2.

Laugh because the presentation is superb, or cry because in comparison our football replays are garbage.

Big Match commentator Brian Moore never gets overexcited and most of the commentary is merely naming players with the ball. Moore lets the viewer watch the replay without hectoring him with screaming trivia.

There are instant slow motion replays of critical points in the match, from different camera angles, and a crisp summary as the players leave.

The replay over, the match then is analysed by the expert Moore, usually with the help of one or two stars of the day.

And to top it all off the Big Match follows up with great features like Where Are They Now and viewers' letters, complete with analytical and intriguing film clips.

The whole show is completely professional, from the amusing multi-shot introduction to the final highlight of

the days. Compare this to Channel 7's moronic dribble during the VFL season. For half an hour half a dozen has-beens murder the Queen's English in a childish free-for-all.

Then, with viewers' taste for quality bruised, battered and dragged to the "he-did-a-good-job-in-the-ruck" level, he is inflicted with an hour of the Mike Williamson and Lou Richards replay, with the match playing a support role.

There is little or no editing and virtually no introduction. The attitude seems to be "let it roll and see what happens."

Williamson raves like a vampire out of fresh blood while Richards at least tries to keep the commentary sane.

And regular viewers of the Big Match note that Moore often takes his crew to the less glamorous Third and Fourth Division matches for variety.

But our TV stations cover the bottom clubs only when they have to, which shows our TV sports big shots haven't really got much up top. After all, there are 12 clubs and they all have supporters.

STOKE CITY NEW LEADER

LONDON: Stoke City moved to the top of the English soccer league for the first time this season with a hard earned 1-0 win at home to Leicester City on Saturday.

A goal by Dennis Smith four minutes from the end of a tense match left Stoke on 25 points and gave them a narrow one-point advantage over their rivals.

Nineteen-year-old Carl Jayes, making his league debut in the Leicester goal, was unable to keep out Smith in the closing stages as Stoke made an all-out effort to grab both points.

Trailing behind Stoke in the first-division table were four clubs all level-pegging on 24 points — Manchester City, Liverpool, Ipswich and Everton.

Manchester City, who led the table before Saturday's matches, looked set to equal Stoke's haul of 25 points until the 74th minute of their match at Newcastle.

Then Malcolm MacDonald headed the winner in Newcastle's 2-1 triumph to wipe out the Manchester City equaliser netted by England striker Rodney Marsh in the first half.

But while Stoke were grabbing the advantage in the battle for the league title, the most entertaining drama of the day was at Old Trafford where second-division leaders Manchester United edged to a thrilling 3-2 victory in their top-of-the-table clash with Sunderland. A crowd of 60,000 — the biggest attendance in English soccer this season — saw a tremendous battle which brought three goals in three minutes.

Stuart Pearson put

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